



# Brandywine Bonsai Society

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**Meeting:** August 15, 2009 10:00am

**Where:** Brandywine Town Center

**Subject:** Late Summer Workshop

Cookie Person: None

Pre-meeting bonsai help: Everyone, all morning

## The Late Summer Workshop.

This is your chance to spend some very focused time on a tree or two (we all have them) that need to have the wiring finished, the wild and shaggy tops trimmed back, etc. You can do these jobs in good company, share bonsai war stories, and mostly, get expert advice from club members who will be circulating.

By this time in the bonsai year, trees may be looking a bit ragged, and less than their best. Nonetheless, there is work to do, and BBS members should remember that now isn't too soon to be thinking of which trees and companions will be suitable for the Longwood show.

Some late summer tasks will go more speedily in the company of fellow members who face the same jobs. So, bring in a slew of companion grasses and other plants that need patient cleaning up. Trees that you wired this spring may need to have that wire removed or at least loosened. Deciduous trees that have put out significant growth since spring may need to have it wired and positioned. This is a good time to wire junipers and conifers. Overly long growth on all trees can be trimmed back to preserve the desired outline, including pine candles that were allowed to grow during the season. Heavy branch pruning could encourage new growth that won't be able to harden off before winter, so curb any major styling ambitions!

This also is a good month to do some lime sulfur application/reapplication, but this cannot be carried out at the workshop.

**New members:** This is a good time to get some sustained help with your trees. Senior

club members will be happy to answer those questions and provide too many answers.

Pack your tools and supplies if you have them. The club will not be able to provide any wire or tools at this meeting.

## Coffee and Cookie Hounds, Please Note!

The coffee service, and pastry providers are taking a well-deserved vacation, so if you need beverage to support yourself, and/or a snack, bring them with you. On your own!

## The Longwood Show: Bonsai and Suiseki, November 7 & 8

Artists who have visited BBS and MABS all tell us that exhibit trees should be prepared about six weeks in advance of the show. So, if errant branches need some pulling in, if moss needs to be applied, start now.

If you find that you will not be submitting trees or stones, you still have an important role to play. We need your help to tree/sit and stone/sit.



Juniperus procumbens nana, about 4" tall

## A Different Take on Water Crystals

Several years ago there was a flurry of enthusiasm about the freedom that water crystals (polymers) might afford bonsai enthusiasts. Unfortunately, several who mixed the crystals into their soil found ugly Monsters or Blobs oozing to the surface a short time later. In the latest issue of Fine Gardening, p. 12, a reader shared that she too had had this problem though with regular container plants as well as in-ground plantings. She prepares the crystals the day before use by soaking them in hot tap water. They swell enormously. She either uses them immediately, i.e., the next day, or stores them in containers for later use.

When planting in containers, she mixes the crystals throughout the soil. Given the shallowness of most bonsai pots compared to regular planters, the better tactic might be to put the swollen crystals at the bottom. Since they have already achieved full expansion, there shouldn't be any overnight visits from The Blob.

This may not work in very shallow suiseki containers. But perhaps there are different sized crystals available. An expedition to the garden center will provide an answer to that. If any BBS members try this technique, please share your experience with Nancy Klabunde.



## Directions to Brandywine Town Center:

We have had a number of new members or potential members sign up with Brandywine Bonsai Society recently. For them, I am repeating the directions to our next meeting.

From Route 202 Southbound: Turn left onto Naamans Road at the intersection (Exxon station on corner). \*At the first light, turn left into Brandywine Town Center (you will see a Target store) and then turn right and follow the outer parking lot road to the meeting hall (in front of a

pond) on your left. It is the domed building sitting apart from the commercial buildings.

From I-95 and/or 202 Northbound: Take Exit 8, Concord Pike North. Just beyond the Concord Mall and the Days Inn, turn right onto Naamans Road & follow the directions \* above.

From I-95 Southbound: Take the I-495 and Naamans Road exit just after entering Delaware. Follow Naamans Road westward. You will go through (legally, we hope) many lights. After passing Grubb Road, you will take the next right into Brandywine Town Center. Turn left and look for the meeting hall on your right.

For a map, click on this link:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=39.832581,-75.53828&spn=0.010463,0.013819&t=h&z=16>

## Additional Bonsai Information

At the picnic, one of the members asked about bonsai information and our website:

<http://www.gobbs.org/>

The American Bonsai Society and their quarterly Bonsai Journal can be found at:

<http://www.absbonsai.org/>

Bonsai Clubs International is available at

<http://www.bonsai-bci.com/>

*Bonsai Focus* is a relatively new magazine. at [www.bonsaifocus.com](http://www.bonsaifocus.com).

Knowledge of Bonsai provides a lot of information at <http://knowledgeofbonsai.org/>



Satsuki azalea, about 8" tall